

9. Tug Procedures

9.1 Tug Information

Tugs are an aid to the safe and efficient maneuvering of ships in confined waterways.

There are two tugs available for towage stationed in Mackay.

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9.1.1 Notification of Tugs

Tug services should be requisitioned via QSHIPS when booking the movement of a vessel ([3.7.1 Booking a vessel movement](#)). Updates to bookings should be made direct to the tug company by phone. In some instances, the RHM, ship's master or pilot may require additional tugs to the minimum requirements listed in this section.

9.1.2 Communicating with Tugs

Mackay tugs use VHF channel 13 for call up and communicating with ships during berthing operations.

9.2 Tug Requirements

The following information is a guide to assist agents and masters when booking tugs. Direction can be sought from the RHM.

Generally, all ships manoeuvring will use two tugs. A ship's Master may consider it appropriate to seek a reduction in the number of tugs required for a movement. Master of the ship must submit a request to the Regional Harbour Master utilising the appropriate form for each movement.

Tug reductions not applicable to passenger ships.

[Reduction in Tugs Application form](#)

These are the minimum requirements; these requirements may be exceeded in adverse conditions (i.e. wind, tide or limited space on wharf). The number of tugs required may vary at the discretion of the RHM or pilotage services.